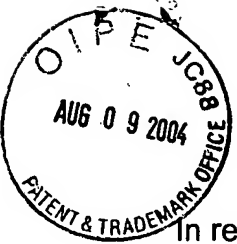


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:) Attorney Docket No.: F-631
John P. Miller et al.) Group Art Unit: 1734
Serial No.: 10/660,240) Examiner: G. Koch
Filed: Sept. 11, 2003) Date: August 6, 2004
) Confirmation No.: 5334

Title: ENVELOPE FLAP MOISTENING APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed July 16, 2004, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-11 and 16-25, for continued examination, with traverse.

The Commissioner may require restriction if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application (35 U.S.C. § 121). The independent claims in each group are directed to a device for moistening an envelope flap and a corresponding method for moistening an envelope flap. Accordingly, the search areas for the elected subject matter will overlap the search areas for the non-elected subject matter as well and thus no undue burden would be involved in examining all pending claims together. M.P.E.P. § 803 directs as follows (emphasis added): "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." This directive should be followed by the Examiner in this case.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that each of Claims 1-25 presently pending in this application be examined.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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P.O. Box 1450
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On August 6, 2004
Date of Deposit

Brian A. Lemm
Name of Registered Rep.



Signature

August 6, 2004
Date